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DIRECT EDITION

QUASAR™

FROM EVERY ANGLE, TERROR STRIKES!

HEEBINK & WIEBREDT '93

WENDELL VAUGHN. . . THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL!

Stan Lee presents

QUASAR

NOW HALFWAY BETWEEN FLORIDA AND NEW YORK, A RATHER UNUSUAL AIRCRAFT IS MAKING AN UNSCHEDULED FLIGHT...

MMM, KAYLA...

...YOU CAN'T BELIEVE HOW *HAPPY* I AM THAT WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN.

MAKE ME BELIEVE.

THE CONSERVATION OF ANGULAR MOMENTUM

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AFTER ALL YOU *WENT THROUGH* BECAUSE OF ME, I'M JUST... SURPRISED YOU'D STILL WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO *DO* WITH ME.

JUST PROMISE ME IT WON'T HAPPEN *AGAIN* AND WE CAN *FORGET* ABOUT IT...

CAN WE? IT'S A HECK OF A LOT TO *FORGET*...

"--HOW I CAME BACK FROM A DISTANT MULTIVERSE WITH AN INCREDIBLY POTENT POWER SOURCE CALLED THE *STARBRAND*--

"--AND ACCIDENTALLY *GAVE* IT TO *KAYLA* WHEN I EMBRACED HER.

"WITHOUT KNOWING IT, SHE'D SUDDENLY BECOME ONE OF THE *MOST POWERFUL MORTALS* IN THE UNIVERSE, AND THE TARGET FOR ANY NUMBER OF BEINGS WHO *WANTED* WHAT SHE HAD--

"--CHIEF AMONG THEM--HER *ROOMMATE*, A LADY WHO CALLED HERSELF *ERESHKIGAL* AFTER THE BABYLONIAN DEATH GODDESS.

"BUT WHEN ERESH GOT THE BRAND AND USED IT AGAINST ONE OF THE MAJOR *MUCKAMUCKS* OF THIS MULTIVERSE--

"--SHE DID HERSELF IN AND THE *LIVING TRIBUNAL* GAINED CONTROL OVER THE STARBRAND.

--AND NOW HERE SHE IS--THE NICE, NORMAL EARTH GIRL THIS SPACE-CADDY'S BEEN *GAGA* OVER SINCE THE DAY WE MET.

NOPE. JUST GIVING MY *LIPS* A REST WHILE MY *EYES* GET THEIR TURN TO ENJOY YOU.

WHAT'S WRONG? THE QUANTUMOBILE RUN OUT OF *GAS*?

"I THEN HAD MY OLD PAL *DOCTOR DRUID* HELP KAYLA DEAL WITH THE *TRAUMA* OF EVERYTHING SHE'D BEEN THROUGH--"

SEVERAL LEISURELY HOURS LATER...

SO. HOW LONG BEFORE YOU HAVE TO GO BACK INTO *SPACE* AGAIN?

WELL, THAT DEPENDS...

I DO HAVE A NUMBER OF *LOOSE ENDS* TO WRAP UP HERE ON EARTH BEFORE I GO OFF *GALLIVANTING* AGAIN.

I NEED TO CHECK UP ON *KISMET*, FOR INSTANCE.

OH... *HER*. I... I'D ALMOST *FORGOTTEN* WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

HANG TIGHT. I'LL JUST BE A *MINUTE*.

MY POOR *COSMIC COMPANION* SOMEHOW GOT IT IN HER HEAD TO HASSLE KAY ABOUT THE *STARBRAND*...*

...ONE THING LED TO *ANOTHER*...

*SEE ISSUE #49.

...AND KISMET GOT *HURT* AND SPUN SOME SORT OF *RECUPERATIVE COCOON* AROUND HERSELF...

AND HERE IT IS! I WAS *HOPING* IT'D KEEP TILL I TOOK CARE OF BUSINESS IN FLORIDA.

A SET OF *QUANTUM-PONTOONS* AND SHE'S ALL SET.

I KNOW A FAR BETTER *CONVALESCENCE SITE* THAN THE BOTTOM OF NEW YORK HARBOR...

QUASAR-- HOW *IS* SHE?

Q-HAUL

THE SAME.

I WOULDN'T FRET ABOUT KISMET *TOO* MUCH, KAYLA.

SHE'LL *PULL THROUGH*. I'VE GOT A LOT OF *CONFIDENCE* IN HER COSMIC REGENERATIVE POWERS.

SO WHERE ARE WE *TAKING* HER?

TO THE PLACE WHERE I USED TO *WORK*... THE UPSTATE GOVERNMENT *ENERGY RESEARCH FACILITY*--

"--*PROJECT PEGASUS!*"

HEY, SOME *ACTIVITY* OUT IN THE YARD!

SCHIRRA, *LOOK!* UP IN THE SKY!

ALERT *THE CHIEF* BELOW!

HAVEN'T BEEN BACK HERE IN WELL OVER A *YEAR*--

--BUT AS FAR AS I *KNOW* I'M STILL WELCOME.

A FLYING CAR AND TRAILER--? YOU RECOGNIZE IT?

NO, BUT JUST 'CAUSE IT *LOOKS* INNOCUOUS, I WOULDN'T DROP MY *GUARD*.

HYPERION! BLUE SHIELD! I COME IN PEACE!

QUASAR--?

HOW'VE YOU *BEEN*, STRANGER?

CAN'T COMPLAIN.

HEY, *SHIELD*, WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE *RESIGNING* AS SECURITY CHIEF.

WELL, I CHANGED MY MIND.

QUITTING A *GOOD JOB* IN THIS ECONOMY IS NUTS!

OH, GUYS, I WANT YOU TO MEET MY FRIEND *KAYLA BALLANTINE*.

KAY, THIS IS HYPERION AND THE BLUE SHIELD.

PLEASED TO *MEET* YOU.

SO WHAT'S IN THE *TRAILER*?

ANOTHER FRIEND OF MINE, BELIEVE IT OR NOT.

WAIT--YOU *MET* HER ONCE. REMEMBER THE GOLDEN-SKINNED WOMAN WHO CALLED HERSELF *HER*?*

HOW COULD I *FORGET*?

*SEE ISSUES #28-29.

WHAT'S WITH THOSE *VAULT GUARDSMEN*? I THOUGHT THE PROJECT WAS *OUT* OF THE *SUPER-VILLAIN LOCKUP* BUSINESS.

THE VAULT'S GETTING *OVERCROWDED*. WE'VE AGREED TO HOUSE FELONS OF *EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL ORIGIN* FOR THEM HERE.

SOON, INSIDE...

...SO IF YOU CAN JUST PROVIDE A *SMALL SECURE ROOM* WHERE HER COCOON CAN BE MONITORED, I'D BE VERY APPRECIATIVE.

SHE REALLY SHOULDN'T BE *ANY TROUBLE* AT ALL...

UNTIL SHE *EMERGES*.

OKAY, QUASAR, WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.

I HAVE TO GO SUPERVISE THE INSTALLATION OF OUR *LATEST PRISONER*. HYPE, YOU FIND QUASAR WHAT HE *REQUIRES*.

WILL DO.

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

THIS IS *GREAT!* MORE ELABORATE THAN I'D *HOPED!*

JUST MAKE SURE NO TECHNO GETS IT IN HIS HEAD TO START *EXPERIMENTING* WITH THE COCOON IN ANY WAY...

WELL, KISMET, YOU'LL BE *SAFE* HERE. WHENEVER YOU'RE READY TO *COME OUT*, I'LL HAVE THE PROJECT GET *HOLD* OF ME, OKAY?

...KISMET'S NO FELON. SHE DESERVES SOME RESPECT.

I'LL SEE TO IT *PERSONALLY*, QUAZE.

IF YOU'RE NOT IN ANY HURRY, YOU REALLY SHOULD SAY *HI* TO THE REST OF THE *SQUADRON*, QUASAR.

HM? OH, OKAY.

HEY-- THAT GUY YOU WERE CHECKING IN FROM THE VAULT-- I KNOW HIM. THAT'S THE *ANGLER*.

REMEMBER HIM, KAYLA? WE RAN INTO HIM ON THE DAY WE *MET*!*

...RAN INTO HIM *AFTER* THAT, TOO. WHEN I HAD THE STARBRAND

OH, REALLY?

*IN THE NEAR-MEMORABLE ISSUE #3.-- MEMOMIKE

THERE'S *ARCANNA* CONSULTING WITH THE MED BOYS.

WE EXTRADIMENSIONAL REFUGEES HAVE TO *EARN* OUR ROOM AND BOARD SOMEHOW.

SO WHAT ARE THEY *DOING* WITH HIM?

PROBABLY JUST RUNNING THE ROUTINE *INDUCTION EXAM*.

MIND IF I STAY TO *WATCH*? I NEVER DID FIND OUT WHAT THAT GUY'S *BACKSTORY* WAS.

I DON'T MIND. BUT IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO BE A *LONG WAIT* BEFORE THEY GET ANYTHING RESEMBLING *ANSWERS* FROM HIM.

LET'S GO SEE THE REST OF THE *SQUADRON*. WE CAN CHECK UP ON HIM *LATER*.

OKAY.

THIS GUY'S *VAULT FILE* SAYS THEY NEVER QUITE MANAGED TO REMOVE THIS CHARACTER'S *SKINTIGHTS*...

...AND FIGURE OUT WHAT HE *LOOKS* LIKE, *MOONGLOW.*

IT WON'T BE MUCH OF A PROBLEM...

...FOR A SORCERESS OF *MY* ABILITIES.

WATCH.

WILL YOU LOOK AT *THAT?* HALF OF HIS BODY'S TRANSFORMED -- INTO SOMETHING LIKE *CRYSTAL!*

IMAGINE THE *STRESS* HIS ENTIRE BODY MUST BE UNDER WITH TWO SUCH DISSIMILAR PHYSICAL FORMS LINKED SO INTIMATELY!

I CAN'T IMAGINE SUCH AN ORGANISM BEING STABLE. WHAT'S HIS *ALIEN SIDE* COMPOSED OF, DR. LIPTON?

I'LL LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS I CAN *FIGURE IT OUT.*

SEVERAL LEVELS ABOVE...

WHIZZER AND *DOC SPECTRUM* ARE ON A *FIELD MISSION*, BUT THE REST OF THE GANG SHOULD BE HERE.

WHAT *KIND* OF MISSION?

DURING OUR EXILE ON YOUR EARTH, WE'VE AGREED TO SERVE AS THE PROJECT'S INVESTIGATORS OF *EXTRADIMENSIONAL PHENOMENA. FITTING*, CONSIDERING OUR ORIGINS.

NICE SAVE, SKYLARK!

SHAPE GOT IT! SHAPE GOT IT!

BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, WE DO HAVE *DOWNTIME* IN BETWEEN MISSIONS!

UH--UH--IT HASN'T TOUCHED THE *GROUND.*

HAYWIRE *CHEAT* AGAIN!

SORRY TO *BUTT IN--*

--BUT IT WAS GOING *FOUL* ANYWAY!

HEY, HEY--LOOK WHO'S HERE-- *QUASAR!*

YOU'RE LOOKING *GOOD,* QUASAR!

THE NAME'S *HAYWIRE,* PRETTY LADY. AND YOU ARE--?

THANKS, POWER PRINCESS!

KAYLA.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE *PROJECT?*

ENOUGH TALK! SHAPE'S TEAM *WINNING!*

A SICK FRIEND.

LET'S PLAY *WALLEYBALL!*

RRNT RRNT RRNT RRNT

SECURITY ALERT--!

UH, KAYLA. I'M GOING TO GO WITH THEM TO *CHECK IT OUT.*

YOU SHOULD BE *SAFE* HERE.

SO WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO *DO* IN THIS WEIRD PLACE BY MYSELF?

WHY IS IT THAT NEARLY *EVERY TIME* I COME TO VISIT THERE'S SOME KIND OF *EMERGENCY?*

AM I *BAD LUCK* OR WHAT?

MONITOR SAYS THE CALL'S COMING FROM THE *COMPOUND*-- WHERE WE LEFT *MOONGLOW* AND THE *ANGLER!*

WHO *HE?*

SKURTCH

aaaaagk

OH, NO!

PUT THAT MAN DOWN NOW!

YOU HEARD HIM-- PUT HIM DOWN!

THAT'S THE ANGLER?!?

THHMMP

SHAPE, FIND MOONGLOW... AND BE CAREFUL!

HOKAY.

DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM--

--BUT HE'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER!

ULP!

HEY, HEY, HEY, POINTY-HEAD-- GONNA TANGLE UP YOUR ANGLES!

AW, MAN-- HE'S SLASHING THROUGH MY DIMENSIONAL *FILAMENT* LIKE IT WAS KITESTRING!

HOLD YOUR *EARS*, HAY--!

EEEEE

MY *HYPERSONIC CRY'S* NOT EVEN *SLOWING HIM!*

VEER OFF, *LARK*--

--HYPE AND I ARE GOING TO TRY SOME *EXCESSIVE FORCE!*

WHAT--?

HE--*VANISHED?*

REAPPEARED *SIX FEET AHEAD*--

SVSSSH

oh.

HY, I THINK I'VE BEEN *SLICED OPEN!*

I- I'M HOLDING IN THE *BLEEDING--*

--BUT I NEED TO GET TO THE *INFIRMARY-- QUICK!*

ME, TOO! BUT I'M-- I'M SUPPOSED TO BE *INVULNERABLE!*

HANG *ON*, MY LOVE--!

THERE'S GOT TO BE *SOMETHING* HE CAN'T SLICE THROUGH!

LINDA, TAKE ZARDA TO *SICK BAY!* HER RIGHT SIDE'S BEEN CUT FROM *RIBCAGE TO ANKLE!*

SO'S *YOURS!*

MINE'S *HEALING* ALREADY!

I WANT TO STAY AND HELP OUT *HERE!*

BLOOD! ARCANNA'S LYING IN BLOOD!

SHE NEEDS HELP!

GONNA FRY THIS SONUVA--

HYPE! WATCH IT WITH THOSE WILD BLASTS--

--YOU'LL DO MORE DAMAGE TO THE PROJECT THAN TO HIM!

ALL RIGHT. YOU HOLD HIM--I'LL SEE TO ARCANNA!

C'MON!

IF WE CAN GET AHEAD OF HIM--

--MAYBE WE CAN HEAD HIM OFF!

SOME SORT OF LINEAR TELEPORTATION.

NOT FAIR! ANGY-BABY KEEPS BLINKING IN AND OUT OF SIGHT!

I'LL FILL THE CORRIDOR WITH DENSE ROWS OF COLUMNS--

--YOU TANGLE UP THE GAPS BETWEEN THEM!

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN.

QUASAR'S BLOCKED CORRIDOR TO! I'LL HAVE TO GO THE *LONG WAY!*

NNNN...

HYPE PLEASE HELP *ARCKY!*

QUASAR! ARCANNA'S BEEN SLIT, TOO!

TAKE HER TO THE *INFIRMARY* FOR ME?

HUH? BUT I'M--

PLEASE! I WANT TO NAIL THIS SLASHING MANIAC!

BUT *I* MIGHT BE BETTER ABLE--

WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO *ARGUE!*

WELL, UH... *ALL RIGHT!*

HANG *ON*, ARCANNA. I'LL GET YOU *MEDICAL HELP* IN NO TIME!

OUR *PROBES*... TRIGGERED *CHANGES*... NOT *SUPPOSED* TO HAPPEN...

EASY, LADY. DON'T TRY TO *TALK.*

TOUCH-TEACH YOU... WHAT I KNOW...

WHOA! SHE'S TRANSMITTING IMAGES DIRECTLY INTO MY BRAIN!

I SEE A MAN...

...ONE OF ROXXON OIL COMPANY'S MERCENARY NTH COMMANDOS...

...ASSIGNED TO LOCATE EXTRADIMENSIONAL ENERGY SOURCES...

"APPARENTLY HIS NTH PROJECTOR MALFUNCTIONED AND FELL THROUGH A RIFT INTO SOME ABSTRACT DIMENSION--

"--WHERE HE ENCOUNTERED SOME SORT OF BIZARRE CREATURE.

"--WHICH PARTIALLY TRANSFORMED HIM INTO THE ANGULAR-LOOKING HUMANOID I KNEW AS THE ANGLER.

"--THOUGH WHAT HE WANTED WITH IT ARCANNA COULDN'T DETERMINE!"

"HE TRIED TO WARP AWAY, BUT THE CREATURE CAUGHT HIM WITH SOME SORT OF DEVICE--

"AFTER FINALLY MANAGING TO GET BACK TO EARTH, THE ANGLER MADE HIS WAY TO FANTASTIC FOUR HEADQUARTERS HOPING TO STEAL THE NTH PROJECTOR THE FF HAD CONFISCATED--

ANOTHER CASUALTY!

ARCANNA!

THANKS!

OKAY, SO NOW I KNOW A LITTLE OF THE ANGLER'S *BACK STORY*--

BUT I STILL DON'T HAVE A *CLUE* HOW TO *STOP HIM!*

MAYBE HYPE--?

HYPE!

THANK ARGON, YOU'RE *BACK!*

GRAPPLED WITH HIM, BUT HE SLINKED AWAY--

--MANAGED TO SWIPE *SHAPE* AND *HAYWIRE*--!

GET THEM TO THE *INFIRMARY* SO I CAN--

NO WAY, HYPE. YOU *HAD* YOUR CHANCE TO STOP HIM. NOW IT'S *MY TURN.*

SKYLARK WILL BE ALONG IN A MOMENT TO HELP YOU PLAY *AMBULANCE.*

SECURITY, THIS IS *QUASAR*. LOST THE ANGLER ON E LEVEL CORRIDOR 7.

ANY CURRENT WHEREABOUTS?

O LEVEL, CORRIDOR 16!

THANKS!

THOUGH BY THE TIME I *GET* THERE HE'LL PROBABLY HAVE *MOVED*.

HE'S HEADING TOWARD THE *SURFACE*. HEY, I THOUGHT OF AN *IDEA*!

C LEVEL...

THIS STUPID PLACE IS LIKE A *MAZE*.

AND THAT ALARM MUST BE TELLING EVERYONE TO *CLEAR THE HALLS*, 'CAUSE I HAVEN'T SEEN A--

--SOUL...?

KRAK!

N-NO! HIM!

CHANGED... BUT IT'S *STILL HIM*!

S-STAY BACK!

I MEAN *YOU* NO HARM--

--BUT IF I DID--!

VWOOSH

WHAT?!?

I MUST--I MUST SOMEHOW STILL--I'VE GOT--OH, NO!

KAYLA--AND THE ANGLER!

STAY BACK, KAY--

--I'LL SAVE YOU!

BUT I DON'T NEED--

RECOGNIZE THIS, ANGLER? ANOTHER NTH PROJECTOR!*

*LEFT IN THE PROJECT WAAAY BACK IN MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #57! --NTH ROCK

AND IT'S YOUR TICKET BACK TO *ANGLE-LAND!*

OR AT LEAST SOMEWHERE OTHER THAN *HERE!* I HAD NO TIME TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO *PROGRAM* THIS THING!

IT'S OKAY, KAYLA. HE'S *GONE.*

WENDELL, I *HAVE* IT... *I STILL HAVE IT!*

WHAT? WHAT DO YOU--?

LOOK!

HE'S *BACK!*

I GUESS USING THE *PROJECTOR* WASN'T AS *BRILLIANT* AS I THOUGHT!

THAT'S *NOT HIM.* THAT'S THE FIGURE IN THE *MIST*-- THE ONE WHO *CREATED* THE ANGLER!

NEXT: **THE GEOMETER!**